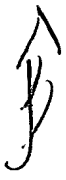




Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28 with:

 In embodiments of the present invention separation elements may comprise a pleated pack which includes a porous medium and a first end, and an end cap including a first segment and a second segment mounted to the first end of the pack. The pleated pack has a length greater than about forty inches and an interior diameter greater than about two inches. The end cap first and second segments are arranged to slide with respect to one another. The end cap is extendable from a first position in which the first and second segments are spaced a first distance from each other to a second position in which the first and second segments move away from one another and are spaced a second distance from each other. The second distance is greater than the first distance, and the end cap maintains a fluid-tight seal in both positions.


Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 with:


 In embodiments of the present invention, separation elements may comprise a pack, which includes a porous medium and a first end, and an end cap, which has a first segment, a second segment mounted to the first end of the pack, and a sealing member coupled to at least one of the first and second segments. The first segment is slidably engaged with the second segment such that the first segment is movable between first and second positions. In the first position, the sealing member is relaxed, and in the second position, the sealing member is compressed by the first and second segments and thereby energized and has an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the second segment of the end cap.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with:


 Figure 13a, 13(b1), and 13(b2) are sectional views of an alternative embodiment of the filter assembly of the present invention.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 16 with:

 Because the filter pack 16 is formed from a material having a finite thickness (t) at the radially inner and outer ends of the pleats 56 where the filter pack 16 is folded back upon itself to form the pleats 56, the pleats 56 may be somewhat rounded. As a result, at the radially inner ends of the pleats 56, small substantially triangular gaps 68 may be formed between the opposing internal surfaces of adjoining legs, and at the radially outer

 opposing external surfaces 66 of adjoining legs 58 or between the internal surfaces of the legs of a pleat (not shown). However, in the present invention, the height of these gaps 68 and 70 as measured along the height of the pleats 56 is preferably extremely small. The height of the gaps 68 and 70 adjoining the inner diameter of the filter is preferably no more than approximately t and more preferably no more than approximately $\frac{1}{2}t$, wherein t is the thickness of the material forming the filter pack 16, as illustrated in Figure 8. The height of the gaps 68 and 70 adjoining the outer diameter of the filter pack 16 is preferably no more than approximately $4t$ and more preferably no more than approximately $2t$. As the pleats 56 are made sharper, i.e., the radially inner and outer ends thereof less rounded, the heights of the gaps 68 and 70 becomes smaller and the percentage of the volume between the inner and outer peripheries of the filter pack 16 which is available for filtration becomes greater.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 19 with:

 The first and second segments 522,524 may be connected together by interlocking the first and second flange-like members 532,542 in slidable engagement, wherein the first end cap 508 comprises an extendable end cap. In the exemplary embodiment, the first flange-like member 532 and the second flange-like member 542 are arranged such that the engagement lips 536,544 make contact with one another to prevent the first and second segments 522,524 from separating. However, the length of the first and second flange-like members 532,542 are such that there may be movement in the axial direction between the first and second segments 522,524. Essentially, the first segment 522 may be moved from a first position wherein the contact section 540 of the engagement lip 536 is in contact with the contact section 546 of the engagement lip 544 (Figure 13(b1)) to a second position wherein the contact section 540 is spaced from and no longer in contact with the contact section 546 (Figure 13(b2)). Accordingly, a first gap 550 of varying height and defining a substantially annular region may be formed between the sealing section 534 of the first segment 522 and the sealing section 548 of the second segment 524, and a second gap 552 of varying height may be formed between the contact section 540 of the engagement lip 536 of the first segment 522 and the contact section 546 of the engagement lip 544 of the second segment 524. The sealing member 526 may be positioned in the first gap 550, and the length of the first and second flange-like members 532,542 may be any suitable length and is preferably sized to accommodate the particular sealing member 526.
